ISAAC ASIMOV
10 WEST 66th ST. 33-A • NEW YORK, N. Y. 10023

4 October 1975

Marcello Truzzi
Department of Sociology
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197

Dear Prof. Truzzi,

I would be pleased to get THE ZETETIC ("seeking", "Proceeding by inquiry"---first time I've seen the word used).

I don't know to what extent I'll be able to help you, but we'll see.

Which story was it that you anthologized in CHESS IN LITERATURE. I forget myself, but if I knew the name I could look up my records and make sure I have a copy of the anthology in my library.

Yours,

Isaac

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25 October 1975

Marcello Truzzi
Department of Sociology
Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197

Dear Marcello,

Alas, I have never received a copy of CHESS IN LITERATURE. Could you kindly drop a line to whoever you worked with in Avon to send me a copy.

I am afraid EVEREST was the only story in which I made use of the Abominable Snowman.

Thank you for the Sherlockian enclosure. Are you xxx a member of "Baker Street Irregulars". You qualify a hundred times over on the basis of this article alone. No one has ever done this to my FOUNDATION TRILOGY and I suppose if you did it it would be just as expert and amusing.

Isaac

Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Feb. 27, 1976

Dear Isaac,

I note that you are one of the Contributing Editors to Science Digest, so thought you might be interested in seeing the enclosed copy of a letter I just sent Mr. Teresi.

I was sorry to hear that you will not be attending the American Humanist Association conference in Buffalo on pseudo-sciences. I had hoped to get a chance to meet you then. It looks like The Zetetic will definitely be taken over by the AHA and turned into a regular journal. Carl Sagan and Phil Klass have indicated they will associate with us, and I very much hope you will join us, too. Among other things, I hope to circulate manuscripts to a number of persons and get brief reactions/criticisms all of which could then be published along with the author's response (in a manner similar to that found in the journal Current Anthropology). If all goes well, we hope to get the new journal out around May.

I know you must be incredibly busy, but I wonder if you might possibly be interested in joining me in a small project as co-editor. I plan a book called Science Looks at Science Fiction. The idea is to get scientific assessments of the genre and its audience. Pieces like "a biologist looks at biology in s-f," "a physicist looks at physics in s-f," etc. I have a good number of such pieces in my file (including some by yourself, of course). I also have social science pieces dealing with things like the fandom, the character of technological prediction in s-f, etc. Ideally, I would prefer specially written pieces for the book. For example, I would be inclined to ask my old friend (whom you probably know) John Boardman to do a physicist's piece. I would also like to include a final section on the uses of s-f for science (as in the recent emergence of exosociology, exo-biology, etc.). There are lots of critiques of s-f as literature but, so far as I know, nothing substantial on it as science. I am hoping the project might appeal to you. If so, we could do it together (I would handle the social science end) and you would get top billing and the larger share of royalties (I don't know what would be fair, but I recognize the obvious value of your prominence in the s-f marketplace so would follow your view which I feel confident would be reasonable). I might add that I have already done a lot of anthologizing (13 books) for text houses. But if the project interests you, I can always tell you more about my past efforts.

EMU
Department of Sociology
(313) 487-0012

When in NYC last week, I noted that you had your phone listed in the telephone book --much to my surprise-- and I almost called you up to try to arrange a meeting. But since (a) you were probably busy, and (b) you might not remember who the hell I was anyway, I did not call. I seem to know a number of people who know you, and I keep thinking that sooner or later some mutual friend (like Martin Gardner) will introduce us; but sometimes "nothing comes to him who waits," so I wonder if we might be able to meet the next time I am in NYC? I plan to go to a conference of the Japan Society around May 23rd. Would it be convenient for me to call you around then to possibly arrange a meeting? I am told by Martin that you do not ever fly, so I presume you are most often in the NYC area.

Finally, since you might find some amusement in them (and I don't think I ever sent you any before), I enclose a couple of copies of my other newsletter, parts of which I think you will enjoy.

Best wishes,

Marcello

Marcello Truzzi

Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48197

Feb. 27, 1976

Dick Teresi, Editor
Science Digest
224 West 57th Street
New York, N.Y. 10019

Dear Mr. Teresi:

I was disturbed by the article "Pyramid Power" by Marvin Grosswirth in your February 1976 issue. The article indicated that no serious scientific research testing the claims of the pyramid merchants has been conducted. In fact, this is not so. Two such studies giving negative results were conducted in a journal one would have thought likely to be friendly to such claims. New Horizons, the journal of the Toronto Society for Psychical Research carried two experimental studies of pyramid power in its Summer 1973 issue. These studies were "The Pyramid and Food Dehydration" by Allen Alter and "Experiments on the Alleged Sharpening of Razor Blades and the Preservation of Flowers by Pyramids" by Dale Simmons. The studies used proper control conditions (different shaped containers) and photomicrographs of the razor blades. It was concluded that "model pyramids have no effects which can be related to their particular shape."

Since you magazine is used in the schools, I hope future articles dealing with similar outrageous claims will be better researched for the negative evidence.

Sincerely,

Marcello Truzzi

Marcello Truzzi, Ph.D.
Professor & Dept. Head

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ISAAC ASIMOV
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1 March 1976

Marcello Truzzi
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Eastern Michigan University
Ypsilanti, Michigan, 48197

Dear Marcello,

Yes, I am in the phone book precisely because I think it is elitist and snobbish not to be, and I wish you had called me. I probably would not have recalled the name, but you would have said "The Zetetic" and ~~w~~ I would have remembered. Please call me any time you are in New York.

As for co-editing "Science Looks at Science Fiction", that will require thought. My work load is very heavy, and I don't want to be in a position of offering to share the labor and then not doing it.

Yours,

Isaac